

More than 100 arrests, 13 officers hurt amid Chicago looting

By Don Babwin
Associated Press

CHICAGO — More than 100 people were arrested Monday following a night of looting and unrest that left 13 officers injured and caused damage in the city's upscale Magnificent Mile shopping district and other parts of the city, authorities said.

Police Superintendent David Brown said it "was not an organized protest" but instead "an incident of pure criminality" that began following the shooting of a person by police the previous day in the city's Englewood neighborhood. At one point early Monday, shots were fired at police and officers returned fire. Brown said a heavy police presence is expected in the downtown area until further notice.

"This was straight up, felony criminal conduct," said Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot. "This was an assault on our city."

Those arrested were expected to face charges including looting, disorderly conduct, battery against police. Lightfoot said that the city has activated a neighborhood protection program that will be in place "for foreseeable days until we know our neighborhoods are safe."

No officers were injured in the shooting, police



Charles Rex Arbogast/Associated Press

Yogi Dalal hugs his daughter Jigisha Monday, Aug. 10, after she arrived at the family food and liquor store and as his other daughter Kajal, left, bows her head after the family business was vandalized in downtown Chicago. Chicago's police commissioner says more than 100 people were arrested following a night of looting and unrest that left several officers injured and caused damage in the city's upscale Magnificent Mile shopping district and other parts of the city.

spokesman Tom Ahern said on Twitter. Many of the businesses that were ransacked had recently opened after Chicago protests of George Floyd's May 25 death in Minneapolis devolved into chaos.

The unrest began shortly after midnight and anti-police graffiti was seen in the area of the Magnificent Mile, which is one of Chicago's most-visited tourist attractions. Hours earlier, dozens of people had

faced off with police after officers shot and wounded a person Sunday in the Englewood neighborhood, located about 10 miles away.

Brown said after a crowd dissipated following that shooting "we are monitoring social media and we come across a post of a caravan of cars being prompted to go to our downtown and loot."

Along the Magnificent Mile, people were seen going in and out

of stores carrying shopping bags full of merchandise as well as at a bank, the Chicago Tribune reported, and as the crowd grew vehicles dropped off more people in the area. On streets throughout the downtown area, empty cash drawers from stores were strewn about and ATMs were ripped open.

Stores miles from downtown were also ransacked, with parking lots littered with glass and items from inside the

stores. Clothes hangers and boxes that once contained television sets and other electronics were seen — evidence that thieves had taken racks of clothes and removed them from the hangers.

"This was obviously very orchestrated," the Rev. Michael Pfleger, a prominent Roman Catholic priest and activist on the city's South Side, told WBBM-TV as cameras panned the downtown area.

One officer was seen slumped against a building, several arrests were made and a rock was thrown at a police vehicle, the newspaper said. Police worked early Monday to disperse the crowds.

There was a large police presence Monday morning outside an Apple store located north of Chicago's downtown area. Blocks away, debris was strewn in parking lots in front of a Best Buy and a large liquor store.

Train and bus service into downtown was temporarily suspended at the request of public safety officials, the Chicago Transit Authority said on Twitter. Bridges over the Chicago River were lifted, preventing travel to and from the downtown area, and Illinois State Police blocked some expressway ramps into downtown. Access was being restored

later Monday morning.

Chicago and its suburbs, like many other cities, saw unrest following the death of Floyd. Chicago's central business district and its commercial areas were shut down for several days after violence erupted and stores were damaged in the wake of marches protesting Floyd's death. Floyd, a Black man who was handcuffed, died after a white officer pressed his knee against Floyd's neck for nearly eight minutes as Floyd said he couldn't breathe.

In the Sunday shooting in Englewood, police said in a statement that they responded about 2:30 p.m. Sunday to a call about a person with a gun and tried to confront someone matching his description in an alley. He fled from officers on foot and shot at officers, police said.

Officers returned fire, wounding him, and a gun was recovered, police said. He was taken to a hospital for treatment and three officers involved also were taken to a hospital for observation, the statement said.

More than an hour after the shooting, police and witnesses said a crowd faced off with police after someone reportedly told people that police had shot and wounded a child. That crowd eventually dispersed.

SERVICES

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if there is anything that person needs. Once a need has been identified the coordinator connects the person with the appropriate service after collecting general household information. The coordinator works directly with clients as they go through the process of acquiring services.

Thompson said the diverse range of service providers means the organizations can work together as problems arise.

"This is especially important with language or culturally specific needs," he said.

Sandy Ryman, Wrap-around Services coordinator at CHD, said the most common request is help with getting food, which can include delivery and finding money to afford groceries while a person is not working or working reduced hours. Community Connection also provides assistance with rent and utilities for those struggling to find work due to the pandemic.

Recent examples of the efficiencies of wrap-around services include the COFA Alliance National Network this summer working with Community Connection to deliver masks and food boxes to historically marginalized community members in Eastern Oregon. And La Grande's Northeast Oregon Network is facilitating contact tracing and helping with insurance and Oregon Health Plan needs. Many other organizations are assisting with the wrap-around services, and Thompson said volunteers are always welcome where support is most needed.

"In the pandemic, it is like running a race and the rules are changing while you are running," Kristin Orstrom, executive director at Oregon Rural Action said. "It is helpful to have everything in one central location."

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